

relating to designating the second full week in September as Direct Support Professionals Week.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 662, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 662.155 to read as follows:

Sec. 662.155. DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WEEK. The second full week in September is Direct Support Professionals Week to honor the work of direct support professionals as an integral part of the long-term support system for individuals with physical and mental disabilities.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on April 9, 2015: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 26, 2015: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Approved June 17, 2015.

Effective June 17, 2015.

CERTAIN WAIVERS BY A DEFENDANT REGARDING A COMMUNITY SUPERVISION REVOCATION HEARING

CHAPTER 687

H.B. No. 518

AN ACT

relating to certain waivers by a defendant regarding a community supervision revocation hearing.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 21(b-2), Article 42.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(b-2) If the defendant has not been released on bail as permitted under Subsection (b-1), on motion by the defendant the judge who ordered the arrest for the alleged violation of a condition of community supervision shall cause the defendant to be brought before the judge for a hearing on the alleged violation within 20 days of filing of *the* [said] motion, and after a hearing without a jury, may either continue, extend, modify, or revoke the community supervision. A judge may revoke the community supervision of a defendant who is imprisoned in a penal institution without a hearing if the defendant, in writing before a court of record or a notary public in the jurisdiction where imprisoned, waives *the defendant's* [his] right to a hearing and to counsel, affirms that *the defendant* [he] has nothing to say as to why sentence should not be pronounced against *the defendant* [him], and requests the judge to revoke community supervision and to pronounce sentence. In a felony case, the state may amend the motion to revoke community supervision any time up to seven days before the date of the revocation hearing, after which time the motion may not be amended except for good cause shown, and in no event may the state amend the motion after the commencement of taking evidence at the hearing. The judge may continue the hearing for good cause shown by either the defendant or the state.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on April 21, 2015: Yeas 145, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 26, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 17, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

**RIGHTS OF A GUARDIAN OF A PERSON IN THE CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SYSTEM**

CHAPTER 688

H.B. No. 634

AN ACT

relating to the rights of a guardian of a person in the criminal justice system.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Chapter 26, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 26.041 to read as follows:

Art. 26.041. PROCEDURES RELATED TO GUARDIANSHIPS. (a) In this article:

(1) "Guardian" has the meaning assigned by Section 1002.012, Estates Code.

(2) "Letters of guardianship" means a certificate issued under Section 1106.001(a), Estates Code.

(b) A guardian who provides a court with letters of guardianship for a defendant may:

(1) provide information relevant to the determination of indigency; and

(2) request that counsel be appointed in accordance with this chapter.

SECTION 2. Section 501.010, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (a-1) and (b-1) to read as follows:

(a) In this section:

(1) "Guardian" has the meaning assigned by Section 1002.012, Estates Code.

(2) "Letters of guardianship" means a certificate issued under Section 1106.001(a), Estates Code.

(a-1) The institutional division shall allow the governor, members of the legislature, and members of the executive and judicial branches to enter at proper hours any part of a facility operated by the division where inmates are housed or worked, for the purpose of observing the operations of the division. A visitor described by this subsection may talk with inmates away from institutional division employees.

(b-1) The uniform visitation policy must:

(1) allow visitation by a guardian of an inmate to the same extent as the inmate's next of kin, including placing the guardian on the inmate's approved visitors list on the guardian's request and providing the guardian access to the inmate during a facility's standard visitation hours if the inmate is otherwise eligible to receive visitors; and

(2) require the guardian to provide the warden with letters of guardianship before being allowed to visit the inmate.

SECTION 3. Section 507.030, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) In this section:

(1) "Guardian" has the meaning assigned by Section 1002.012, Estates Code.

(2) "Letters of guardianship" means a certificate issued under Section 1106.001(a), Estates Code.

(a-1) The state jail division shall allow the governor, members of the legislature, and officials of the executive and judicial branches to enter during business hours any part of a facility operated by the division, for the purpose of observing the operations of the division. A visitor described by this subsection may talk with defendants away from division employees.